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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

– against –

SEVIL NIKOKHILOVICH SHAKHMANOV,

Defendant.

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COMPLAINT
(T. 31, U.S.C. § 5332)

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, SS:

PETER J. SILVESTRI, being duly sworn, deposes and states that he is a Special Agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI"), duly appointed according to law and acting as such.

Upon information and belief, on or about May 13, 2017, within the Eastern District of New York, the defendant SEVIL NIKOKHILOVICH SHAKHMANOV did knowingly and with the intent to evade the currency reporting requirements under Title 31, United States Code, Sections 5316(a)(1)(A) and 5316(b), conceal more than $10,000 in currency and other monetary instruments, to wit, approximately $400,108 in United States currency, in articles of luggage, and transport and transfer and attempt to transport and transfer such currency and monetary instruments from a place within the United States to a place outside of the United States.

(Title 31, United States Code, Section 5332)

The source of your deponent's information and the grounds for his belief are as follows:[1]

1. I have been a Special Agent with HSI and its predecessor agency since 1996. I have personally participated in numerous investigations related to various types of financial crimes including, but not limited to, illegal bulk cash smuggling. I am familiar with the facts contained in this affidavit as a result of my participation in the investigation of the bulk cash smuggling discussed in this affidavit, which includes, but is not limited to, my review of the file and conversations with other law enforcement personnel assisting with the investigation.

2. On or about May 13, 2017, the defendant SEVIL NIKOKHILOVICH SHAKHMANOV, a naturalized citizen of the United States of America, attempted to board Turkish Airlines flight 2 to Istanbul, Turkey, departing from John F. Kennedy International Airport ("JFK") in Queens, New York. In the vicinity of the jet way, the defendant was selected for an enforcement examination. Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") officers asked the defendant if he understood English, and he confirmed that he did. The CBP officers informed the defendant of the currency reporting regulations, and presented a customs form (the "CBP-909 Form") for the defendant to read.

3. After the defendant SEVIL NIKOKHILOVICH SHAKHMANOV finished reading the customs form and confirmed that he understood it, CBP officers asked him to declare all of the currency that he was transporting for himself and for any

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[1] Because the purpose of this affidavit is to set forth only those facts necessary to establish probable cause, I have not set forth all the facts and circumstances of which I am aware.

other person. CBP officers also informed the defendant that he was required to declare all currency that the defendant was carrying in checked luggage and carry-on luggage, whether in the form of cash, checks, money orders or other negotiable instruments.

4. The defendant SEVIL NIKOKHILOVICH SHAKHMANOV then stated and wrote on the CBP-909 Form that he was transporting $210 in United States currency. The CBP officers asked the defendant if he was transporting additional currency or any other monetary instruments for himself or another person, and the defendant said no.

5. Examination of the defendant SEVIL NIKOKHILOVICH SHAKHMANOV's two carry-on bags (one gray rolling suitcase with "Big 3" on the label and one black rolling suitcase with "P" on the label) revealed United States currency in excess of $10,000. When CBP officers began to examine the defendant's gray bag, the defendant stated that he had meant to indicate that he had $210,000 in that bag. The gray bag contained $200,000 in United States currency concealed in items of clothing. When CBP officers began to search the black bag, the defendant indicated that he was carrying a total of approximately $400,000 in his carry-on luggage. The black bag contained $200,108 in United States currency concealed in items of clothing.

6. A total of approximately $400,108 in United States currency was found concealed within the defendant's carry-on luggage. Additionally, CBP officers also found in the defendant SEVIL NIKOKHILOVICH SHAKHMANOV's black rolling suitcase a folder containing multiple receipts from a credit union documenting money withdrawals, including multiple receipts for withdrawals in excess of $50,000.

WHEREFORE, your deponent respectfully requests that the defendant SEVIL NIKOKHILOVICH SHAKHMANOV be dealt with according to law.

PETER J. SILVESTRI
Special Agent
United States Department of Homeland Security
Homeland Security Investigations

Sworn to before me this
15th day of May, 2017

S/ Pohorelsky

THE HONORABLE VIKTOR V. POHORELSKY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK